for the farmers are being implemented. More recently, Government has announced a number of initiatives to enhance credit availability to the farm sector.

In the field of marketing & storage and to address the problems of post harvest management, Government is implementing schemes for Construction of Cold Storages, Rural Godowns and Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.

To promote agricultural extension, department is implementing the schemes of Kisan Call Centre, Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension, establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri- Business by Agriculture Graduates.

Annual Plans formulated by the department are comprehensive and cover all aspects of the agriculture production. In the current Annual Plan 2004-05, and outlay of Rs. 265.00 crores has been provided.

(c) and (d) Agriculture production is highly dependent on weather conditions. There are two main cropping seasons viz. Kharif and Rabi. Different crops are grown in these seasons. Therefore, it is too early to assess the achievement of crop production during the current financial year and the shortfall in production. However, the Government maintains a buffer stock of food grains in order to meet the shortfall in the production.

Phasing out of concession in crop insurance premium

1791. SHRI C. PERUMAL Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and marginal farmers are entitled for concession in premium for insurance of their crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to phase out the concession; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the provision of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) Small and marginal farmers were entitled to subsidy of 50% on the premium in the first year of its implementation.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, to make the scheme self-sustaining the premium subsidy is to be phased out over a period of 5 years, reducing the same by 10% every year. At present *{i.e.* 2004-05) the premium subsidy has been reduced to 10%.

Implementation of NAIS

1792. Ms. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the States are not implementing the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (1999-2000), treating Gram Panchayats as the unit of insurance;

(b) if so, the names of such States; and

(c) the action plan of Government to ensure that the above insurance scheme is implemented by all the States in its true letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, all the implementing States/UTs except Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are not implementing the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), treating Gram Panchyats as the unit of insurance. These States are:

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(c) All the States/UTs are being sensitized from time to time by giving details of NAIS in the national level Conferences like National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif and Rabi Campaign. Besides this, special visits and meetings are arranged to explain the provisions of the scheme and to persuade non-participating states. The representatives of Implementing Agency (IA) are required to attend regularly the State Level Coordination Conwnittee on Crop Insurance (SLCCCI)'s meeting so as to clarify all the issues concerning implementation of the Scheme.